

IN THE CLAIMS

1) Please amend Claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) An apparatus providing equipment and facility redundancy, comprising:
working circuitry configured to receive and process a first stream of communication data;
protection circuitry configured to receive and process a second stream of communication data, the second stream being identical to the first stream, the protection circuitry and the working circuitry being functionally identical and synchronized to each other;
an NxN switch fabric having N input ports and N output ports, wherein each of the N input ports may be connected to any one of the N output ports; and
a first cross point switch having N input ports and N output ports capable of receiving the processed first stream and the processed second stream, wherein the first cross point switch couples the processed first stream to a first input port of the NxN switch fabric in a first configuration and couples the processed second stream to the first input port in place of the processed first stream in a second configuration upon detection of an error condition in at least one of the working circuitry and the first stream of communication data.

2) Please cancel Claims 12 and 13.

3) Please amend Claims 14 and 19 as follows:

14. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a second cross point switch having N input ports and N output ports capable of receiving the processed first stream or the processed second stream from a first output port of the NxN switch fabric, wherein the second cross point switch couples the first output port of the NxN switch fabric to at least one of an output portion of a second working circuitry and an output portion of a second protection circuitry.

19. (Amended) A method providing equipment and facility redundancy for ATM circuitry which carries out ATM functions, comprising:

performing a group of ATM functions with first circuitry on a first stream of ATM cells producing a processed first stream;

performing the ATM functions with second circuitry on a second stream of ATM cells producing a processed second stream, the second stream being identical to the first stream, the first circuitry and the second circuitry implementing the ATM functions, the first circuitry and the second